

Message Text

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47

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-12 ISO-00 IGA-01 L-02 SP-02 CU-02

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R 191143Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MBABANE 2405

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, B,LT, WZ

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZIALND

REF: (A) LONDON 16342 (B) MBABANE 2241

1. U.K. POSITION REGARDING UBLS DEVOLUTION VIS-A-VIS ITS PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE ENCOURAGING, OSARAC AGREES JOINT UK, US MEETING WITH BLS COUNTRY REPS IN FRANK DISCUSSION COULD STIMULATE BLS GOVERNMENT THINKING AND POSSIBLY ACTIVATE COURSES OF ACTION WHICH MAY RESULT IN AN IMPROVED DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR UBLS.

2. OSARAC WOULD HAVE WELCOMED MORE ACTIVE CANADIAN ROLE THIS ENDEAVOR. GAYER OF CIDA IN 9 DEC VISIT TO OSARAC EXPRESSED STRONG AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH OUR VIEWS ON BLS BUT WAS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC FOR FORTHRIGHT DONOR APPROACH TO BLS GOVERNMENTS. INDICATED CANADA LOCKED INTO PROVISION OF 20 STAFF MEMBERS NEXT TWO YEARS BUT HAD NO INTENTION OF EXTENDING OR INCREASING ASSISTANCE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WE SUPPORT REF (AB) SUGGESTION THAT AID/W CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH OTTAWA TO ENCOURAGE CANADIAN INFLUENCE AT THIS TIME.

3. WE STILL CONSIDER TIMING CRITICAL FACTOR IF DONOR/BLS MEETING
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TO HAVE EFFECTIVE IMPACT (SEE SECTION C, REF B). WHILE MEETING

PRIOR END DECEMBER DESIRABLE, IT MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE IN VIEW
HOLIDAY PERIOD. HOWEVER DONOR/BLS MEETING MOST CERTAINLY SHOULD
TAKE PLACE BEFORE UBLS COUNCIL MEETING WHICH WE NOW UNDERSTAND MOST
LIKELY TO BE HELD IN EARLY FEBRUARY ALTHOUGH EXACT DATE NOT YET
FIXED. THIS IS IMPORTANT IF CRITICAL ISSUES ARE TO BE DISCUSSED
AND POSSIBLY RESOLVED PRIOR TO BEGINNING 1975 ACADEMIC YEAR.

4. IN CONNECTION NEXT COUNCIL MEETING CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT
US REPRESENTATIVE ATTEND. DE KIEWIET OBVIOUSLY FIRST CHOICE
BUT IF HE UNABLE TO ATTEND, OLC SHOULD ARRANGE WITH UBLS TO NOMINATE
SUITABLE ALTERNATE. UBLS COUNCIL MEETINGS NEED ALL EXPERIENCE,
INSIGHT AND WISDOM AVAILABLE TO PLOT PRUDENT COURSE UNTIL ACCEPTABLE
MASTER PLAN EMERGES.

5. ADVISE. DECONTROL 28 FEBRUARY 1975.
LANE

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